

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you to kindly ask for your help with the reconstruction of our Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Čereňany, Slovakia.

Our church, which occupies a prominent position on a hill at one end of the village, has been caring for the local people since the 13th century and continues to host church services and parish gatherings to this day. Architectural experts particularly value the wooden vaults and arched ceilings, which are unusual for the region.

When cracks in the vaulting appeared about thirteen years ago, the parish engaged a group of experts to survey the structure. Their report indicated that reconstruction work was unavoidable, and we decided to proceed on the basis of their advice, initiating what was to be a big reconstruction process. By order of the Monuments Board of Slovakia, we had to conduct a number of assessments and surveys, including a static assessment and dendrological assessment of the vaults, an assessment of the state of waterlogging of the building, a survey of the state of the rainwater drainage system at the church, architectural/artistic, historical and restoration research, at a total cost of €9 100. Following this, cleaning and chemical treatment of the vaults' supporting structure, as well as the construction of parallel load-bearing arches, was carried out at a cost of €24 500.

The next major objects of repair were the heating and the sound systems. The old furnaces were replaced by infrared radiators inside the benches and on the walls at a cost of €10 800 and the outdated sound system was replaced at a cost of €5 500, the old one having become costly and difficult to maintain. This year, a complete replacement of the switchboard and electrical wiring together with lights and security system has been done, totalling €45 500 (of which €22 500 has been paid so far).

In total, we have invested almost €75 000 into our church. Part of it (around €8 000) was covered by subsidies from the state, while the rest was paid from church collections. The second invoice for the electrical wiring installation (€23 000) is outstanding and due by the end of January 2024.

In the near future, we would also like to paint the church, which will cost us another c. €25 000. As a parish, we've been trying to preserve our church for its historical value while keeping it practical, efficient and safe for our parishioners. While we believe that historical monuments should be looked after by the state, the available state aid is very modest and we are doing whatever we can to make it happen ourselves. There are frequent special collections for the repairs and restoration of the church. However, we've come to the point where, due to the increased cost of living, these collections will not cover the whole sum needed by the end of January.

In 2024, after all the repairs, we would like to restore the original beauty of our church by painting the interior and make it representative for future generations. So, with this on our minds and hearts we ask you kindly for a donation that will help us make this come true.

We greatly appreciate your help and thank you in advance for your contribution. Your donations can be sent to the parish account BIC: SUBASKBX, IBAN: SK19 0200 0000 0002 7494 0382.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. We wish you every blessing in the year ahead.

Jozef Poláček, Parish Priest (email: cerenanyfara@gmail.com)

and members of the Parish Board

Magdaléna Gogorová, Jozef Žiško, Pavol Košian, Anton Sluka, Mária Vážanová,
Marta Vážanová, Ľuboš Žiško, Peter Mikula, Helena Žišková



